

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN SPECIALIST FOR MODERN LANGUAGE CONGRESS
AND TEACHERS SEMINAR

REF: BONN FM 93, 7/3L/75

1. THE POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN SECURING THE PARTICIPATION OF DR. ALAN TRACHTENBERG, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES, YALE UNIVERSITY, IN THE 1976 FEDERAL CONGRESS OF THE "FACHVERBAND MODERNE FREMDSPRACHEN" (THE GERMAN MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION) TO BE HELD IN MAINZ APRIL 12-15, 1976, AS WELL AS IN AN AMERICAN STUDIES SEMINAR FOR GERMAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO BE HELD IN BERLIN APRIL 26-27 OR 22-23. BOTH GROUPS ARE IMPORTANT USIS TARGET AUDIENCES.

2. THE CONGRESS OF THE "FACHVERBAND MODERNE FREMDSPRACHEN," WHICH IS THE ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN TEACHERS OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND HAS SEVERAL THOUSAND MEMBERS, IS A BIENNIAL EVENT. FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS IT HAS FEATURED FOREIGN GUEST LECTURERS WHO SPEAK ON PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE
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PAGE 02 BONN 12858 081753Z

TEACHING, LITERARY HISTORY, AND OTHER SUBJECTS RELATED TO

THE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS. ABOUT 1,000 MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE 1976 CONGRESS AND THE MAJORITY OF THEM WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EVENTS. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO PREVIOUS AMERICAN SPEAKER THE ORGANIZERS ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN SCHOLAR APPEAR, ESPECIALLY IN THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

3. PROFESSOR TRACHTENBERG WOULD BE VERY WELL SUITED. HE COULD SPEAK ON "AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR" AND THUS ADDRESS HIMSELF TO A SUBJECT OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN THE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL LIVES. ANOTHER POSSIBLE SUBJECT WOULD BE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY.

4. IN ADDITION TO ARRANGING FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE CONGRESS, THE POST WOULD SCHEDULE PROFESSOR TRACHTENBERG AS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT A SEMINAR FOR BERLIN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH WHICH IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE BERLIN AMERICA HOUSE UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE BERLIN SENATE. THE SUBJECT OF THIS SEMINAR WILL BE AMERICAN STUDIES AND LITERATURE AND THE ARTS. PREFERRED DATES ARE APRIL 26-27; ALTERNATIVE DATES APRIL 22-23.

5. IN THE REFERENCED FM THE POST ALREADY PROPOSED PROFESSOR TRACHTENBERG AS A VOLUNTARY SPEAKER TO USIA. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE THE POST ATTRIBUTES TO THE TWO ABOVE MENTIONED EVENTS, IT IS PROPOSED TO WORK THIS PROJECT INTO THE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS PROGRAM. IF INTERESTED, OTHER MISSIONS IN EUROPE MAY WISH TO JOIN SO THAT A REGIONAL GRANT MAY BE CONSIDERED.

6. SHOULD PROFESSOR TRACHTENBERG BE UNAVAILABLE, THE POST REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER A SCHOLAR OF EQUAL REPUTATION FOR THIS GRANT. PROPOSED ARE LEO MARX, AMHERST; JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, CHICAGO; BENJAMIN DE MOTT, AMHERST; CARLOS BAKER, PRINCETON; ALFRED KAZIN, SUNY STONY BROOK.

7. THE AMERICAN SPEAKER AT THE CONGRESS MUST BE NAMED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BONN 12858 081753Z

SEPTEMBER 10. THE POST WOULD APPRECIATE, THEREFORE, IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE THIS PROJECT PRIORITY ATTENTION.
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